



DATE: March 31, 2010
TO: Senator Jim Holperin, Chairman of the Senate Committee on
Transportation, Tourism, Forestry and Natural Resources
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry
and Natural Resources
FROM: Henry Schienebeck, Executive Director
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association
RE: **Executive Session on Senate Bill 562**

On behalf of the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA), **I offer our support to the amendments offered by Senator Jim Holperin and that were adopted unanimously by the Assembly Committee on Forestry**, that increases the sanctions for repeat truck weight violation offenders and for the most egregious truck weight violation offenders, and ensures that the 98,000 lb permit does not apply to posted town and county roads during spring thaw.

The GLTPA has worked cooperatively with representatives of the Wisconsin Counties Association and others, under the leadership of Senator Jim Holperin, Representative Fred Clark and Representative Nick Milroy to address concerns that have been raised.

Those who violate truck weight limits do a disservice to our industry and harm the infrastructure that is so important to the viability of our industry.

2005 Wisconsin Act 167 increased the allowable truck weight limit for trucks hauling raw forest products to 98,000 lbs, as long as the truck was fitted with an additional axle. This permit was intended by its authors to be a year round permit because the per axle weight allowed by this permit, 18,000 lbs per axle, is less than year round per axle weight limit allowable under the Federal and state limit of 20,000 lbs per axle.

When enacting the permit, however, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation allowed for the permit to be pulled during spring thaw. **Allowing vehicles transporting any commodity at 20,000 lbs per axle during spring thaw, but not allowing trucks hauling raw forest products at 18,000 lbs per axle does not make any sense and was not the intent of 2005 Act 167. SB 562 corrects this.**

Thank you to the committee for taking a pro-active approach to ensuring that the forestry industry remains a key component to the state's economy.

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